4. Demand, collection and balance.—The subjoined statement shows the land revenue demand of the year, arrears as well as current, the amount collected and written off, and the balance at the end of the year :—

Years.	Demand.			Collection.			Written off.			Balance.		
	Arrears. Rs.	Current. Rs.	Total. Rs.	Arrears. Rs.	Current. Rs.	Total. Rs.	Arrears. Rs.	Current. Rs.	Total. Rs.	Arrears. Rs.	Current. Rs.	Total. Rs.
1082	3,75,514	29,06,063	32,81,577	1,11,282	28,61,775	29,73,057	96,925	...	96,925	1,67,307	44,288	2,11,595
1083	2,11,595	29,53,674	31,65,269	89,300	29,22,060	30,11,360	43,951	...	43,951	78,344	31,614	1,09,958

The collections on account of current revenue amounted to about 99 per cent of the demand. Substantial progress was made in collecting or writing off the old arrears. The total pending balance at the end of the year was reduced from Rs. 2,11,595 to Rs. 1,09,958, or by nearly 50 per cent. All the divisions contributed to this satisfactory result. Of the unrecovered balance at the end of the year, *viz.*, Rs. 1,09,958, a sum of Rs. 24,386 consisted of amounts which had been ordered to be recovered by future instalments and which therefore were not really due during the year, and Rs. 63,010 represented the rents due to this Government on the *desavazhi* lands in Cochin, which could not be recovered under the ordinary revenue processes of this State. Special arrangements have been made for the recovery of these rents.

5. Revenue cases.—The subjoined statement shows the revenue cases disposed of by the Peishkars and Tahsildars during the year :—

Nature of case.	Number for disposal, including balance of previous year.	Actual disposal.	
		Number disposed of.	Percentage of disposal.
1. Puduval or registry of waste lands ...	14,231	9,196	64
2. Transfer of registry	38,857	36,699	94
3. Poramboke	3,190	2,883	90
4. Cases under the Land Acquisition Regulation...	1,254	1,117	89
5. Escheat	174	136	78

There was substantial improvement in the disposal of transfer of registry cases, the percentage of disposal being 94, against 62 in 1082. The percentage of disposal in regard to puduval cases also rose, from 32 to 64, but there was considerable room for improvement in this respect, particularly in the Trivandrum division, where, out of 3,933 cases pending disposal at the close of the year, as many as 1,003 belonged to the years 1077 to 1080. His Highness' Government are insisting on these old cases being disposed of without delay.

The tardy disposal, in previous years, of applications for waste lands, by the Revenue department, attracted the attention of Government during the year, and on

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enquiry, they found that the work was hampered by two circumstances, firstly, the necessity for referring practically all applications to the Forest department under the rules then in force, and secondly, the valuation of timber trees standing on waste lands at excessive rates in most cases. This latter circumstance was also brought to notice at the last session of the Assembly. To remove these impediments, it was laid down that no reference need be made to the Forest department in connection with the registry of waste lands lying *outside* settled reserves or areas notified for reservation and that the valuation of the trees standing on such lands might be done by the Revenue department itself. Favourable rates of valuation, for the trees standing on waste lands, were also sanctioned during the year.

While on the subject of waste lands, I have to mention that it was brought to the notice of His Highness' Government during the year that such lands were being assigned at unduly low rates of assessment in several of the taluks. I need hardly say that the Sirkar's right of property in waste lands is absolute and that it is our duty to see that the revenue due to the Sirkar is not in any case needlessly sacrificed. After a full discussion of the question with the Settlement and the Division Peishkars, His Highness' Government directed that, *in future*, the minimum assessment to be imposed on *unregistered* dry lands shall be four fanams per acre in the Padmanabhapuram and Trivandrum divisions and five fanams per acre in the remaining two divisions. I am glad to be able to say—as the result of enquiries made by me personally in several taluks—that these minimum rates have not in any way deterred applications for waste lands. Allied to the subject of puduvals is that of porambokes. His Highness' Government had reason to fear that the question whether a poramboke was really required for any public or communal purpose did not always receive careful consideration at the hands of the officers of the Revenue department. When the Poramboke Regulation was passed, it was not the intention that the machinery of prosecution &c. provided by it should be set in motion automatically in *every* case of encroachment. Orders were issued during the year insisting on *all* cases of alleged poramboke encroachments being inspected *personally* either by the Peishkars or their Assistants, so that, in those cases where the encroachments were unobjectionable in the sense that the areas occupied were not required for any public or communal purpose, steps could be taken to transfer those areas to the head of assessed waste and to register them in the names of the occupants. In future, convictions under the Regulation and orders of ejectment would be passed only in those cases in which the superior officers consider the vacating of the encroachments absolutely necessary. I may also mention that, even in cases where it may not be possible to assign a poramboke, it is allowable to the Revenue department, under the existing rules, to grant the trees standing on such poramboke, either on permanent registry or on kuthagapattom. In regard to all unoccupied lands, whether puduvals, or porambokes, or nirthal lands, His Highness' Government *have* to rely on the local officers to say which of them could be assigned for cultivation and which should be retained intact.

6. Applications for agricultural loans.—Including the previous year's balance, there were only two applications for loans under Regulation IV of 1066 before the Peishkars. One of these was disposed of during the year.

Though the Regulation was passed 18 years ago, it has been found to be

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